



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Livestock Health Advisory

Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program issues advisory after cattle from Twin Lakes area found to have sarcoptic mange

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program has issued a livestock health advisory after cattle from the Twin Lakes area north of Ya Ta Hey, N.M., were found to have an outbreak of sarcoptic mange.

Glenda Davis, director of the program, said two loads of seriously infected cattle – a total of 28 head – from the area were impounded, the first on Thursday, April 5, and the second on Tuesday, April 10.

The cattle were in very poor nutritional condition and have mange, she said. They will require treatment for the external parasite.

“The problem is it’s open range and the condition of these cattle is very, very poor,” she said. “These animals actually have no hair. They’re miserable.”

She said one animal was hairless and its hide was purple from constant rubbing because of itching.

The outbreak can be prevented through routine deworming and vaccinations, she said. The life cycle of the mite that causes the mange is about three weeks, requiring treatment every two weeks until the cattle’s hair starts to grow back. Because of the region’s recent drought, she said the parasites will live through the winter if there is not a long freeze.

“When these parasites gets on a calf, you will see a definite hair loss,” she said. “They developed cracked, dried skin because they’re itching all the time.”



Because these impounded cattle were on open range, the NNVLP requests all cattle owners to check their cattle for hair loss and scratching. Affected cattle can be treated with a pour-on such as Eprinex or Dectomax.

The parasite can be spread to other cattle and horses through corrals, trailers or by contact, she said. Horses can be protected through regular routine treatment with a product like Ivermectin.

Questions should be directed to the NNVLP at 928-871-6615 or the Resource Enforcement Office at 928-871-6701.

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